

Action Item

Governmental Relations Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the December 4, 2001, Meeting

MINUTES

Governmental Relations Committee

Meeting of December 4, 2001

Committee members present Howard Welinsky, *Chair*
Evonne Seron Schulze, *Vice Chair*
Olivia K. Singh
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*
Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

Other Commissioners present
William D. Campbell
Kyo "Paul" Jhin
Robert L. Moore
Melinda G. Wilson

Committee members absent Lance Izumi
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.

Call to order Governmental Relations Committee Chair Welinsky called the December 4th meeting of the Governmental Relations Committee to order at 11:36 a.m. He said that adoption of the minutes of the last committee-meeting, item 10 on the agenda was taken accomplished on the December 3rd with adoption of the Consent Calendar.

State legislative end-of-the-year report Marge Chisholm stated that this report was presented at the October meeting, however the committee lacked a quorum at that time and no vote was taken.
Chair Welinsky stated his belief that there is a need for action on the record and he entertained a motion to approve item 11. A motion was made, seconded, and voted upon to approve the State Legislative End-of-the-Year Report.

Federal update, December 2001 Karl Engelbach reported that the agenda item included several mailings sent out to Commissioners since the last Commission meeting regarding activities occurring at the federal level. He discussed four specific items the first of which is the re-authorization of the elementary and secondary education act. The following points on this item were noted:

- ♦ Agreement has been reached on the final provisions that will be included in the re-authorization of the elementary/secondary education act. However, there has not been final action and the final compromise has not been released publicly.
- ♦ Because the act has not been re-authorized, Congress has not taken final action on the appropriation for federal education bills for the current federal fiscal year.
- ♦ Federal education programs continue to operate under continuing resolution.

- ◆ Appropriation levels proposed by both the House and the Senate were included in the Agenda packet and a previous mailing. Significant increases in student financial aid and several other areas have been proposed.

Mr. Engelbach reviewed several federal bills of interest to the Commission, the major points noted were as follows:

- ◆ HR 2482 has passed the House of Representatives; it seeks the elimination of the Pell Grant Tuition Sensitivity Formula that limits the amount of federal student aid from Pell Grant funds that California community college students can receive. Because the issue only affects California, the Senate is reluctant to undertake any action. The issue is to be taken up during the re-authorization of the Higher Education Act.
- ◆ House resolution 1992 passed the House, which expanded federal student aid opportunities for distance education programs. A similar version of the bill has been introduced on the Senate side but no action has been taken.
- ◆ Senator Feinstein has introduced Legislation that impacts foreign students and their ability to study here in the United States. Most of the higher education associations have expressed serious concerns about the proposal. There are approximately 66,000 foreign students who are studying in California on student visas.

Chair Welinsky stated that he did not believe that the Commission had taken formal positions on the bills. He asked if it would be appropriate that the Commission take formal action to support the two bills. Assistant Director Leveille stated that the Commission's interest and position on the two bills is known and a letter was submitted to the author and others.

Mr. Engelbach stated that he does not think it necessary to take an official vote and action. Because staff and others know the Commission intent, it was deemed unnecessary to formally vote on the matter.

Legislative and budget priorities for educational opportunity, 2002

Marge Chisholm reported on Legislative and Budget priorities for the coming legislative session. She reviewed the Commission's public agenda regarding four thematic issues determined by the Commission to be essential in the next decade. They are as follows:

- ◆ Growth
- ◆ Preparation of students
- ◆ Baccalaureate degree production
- ◆ Workforce development

The second section of this item reiterated existing procedures adopted by the Commission 25 years ago with regard to communicating positions to the Legislature, the Governor and how action is taken on Legislation.

Commissioner Schultz referenced the minutes of the July 31st Commission meeting that addressed drafting of the education bond initiative. She said Chair Arkatov had asked that someone work with the Legislature to help draft the language for the bond. She

asked who has been working on the issue. Ms. Chisholm stated that she, Director Fox, and Ms. Chavira have been working with legislative staff members Rick Simpson and Danny Alvarez to communicate the Commission's desires with regard to "Joint Use" provisions being included in this legislation.

Adjournment Having no further business before the Committee, Chair Welinsky adjourned the Governmental Relations Committee at 11:49 a.m.
